

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a whetstone, comprising the steps of:

fixing plural base bodies on plural positions of a pedestal where ~~plural~~ at least one abrasive grain layers ~~are~~ is formed, and

forming the abrasive grain layer on at least one ~~each~~ end surface of each ~~said~~ base bodies body.

Claim 2 (Previously Amended): A process for producing a whetstone according to claim 1, wherein said step of forming the abrasive grain layer comprises the step of immersing said pedestal into a plating solution containing abrasive grains.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a whetstone according to claim 2, wherein said plating solution in said step of forming the abrasive grain layer is an electroless ~~planting~~ plating solution.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a whetstone according to claim 3, further~~[,]~~ comprising the steps of:

processing said plural base bodies fixed on said pedestal, before proceeding to said step of forming the abrasive grain layer, so that a ~~plane~~ shape formed by

continuation of end surfaces of plural base bodies fixed on said pedestal ~~has~~ corresponds  
to the inverse shape of an object ~~an objective shape~~ to be processed.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a whetstone according to claim  
4, further comprising a step of:

forming a catalyst layer to promote the ~~which~~ precipitation of the plating layer  
from the plating solution onto at least one of each end surface of said base bodies  
~~promotes~~.

Claim 6 (Previously Amended): A process for producing a whetstone according to claim  
3, wherein said step of fixing plural base bodies on said pedestal, comprising at least the  
steps of:

masking a fixing surface of said pedestal with a masking agent, and  
fixing said plural base bodies on the fixing surface of said pedestal.

Claim 7 (Previously Amended): A process for producing a whetstone according to claim  
6, wherein said masking agent is made of adhesive.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a whetstone according to claim  
6, further comprising the step of:

processing said plural base bodies fixed on said pedestal, after proceeding to said  
step of fixing plural base bodies on said pedestal, so that a ~~plane~~ shape formed by

continuation of end surfaces of plural base bodies fixed on said pedestal ~~has~~ corresponds  
to the inverse shape of an object ~~an objective shape~~ to be processed.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a whetstone according to claim  
8, further comprising the step of:

forming a catalyst layer to promote the ~~which~~ precipitation of the plating layer  
~~promotes~~ from the plating solution onto at least one of each end surface of said base  
bodies.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): A whetstone pellet which is fixed on a pedestal to use,  
comprising:

a columnar base body; and

an amorphous plated layer containing abrasive grains and formed on at least an  
end surface of said base bodies,

wherein said base body is made of a metal having catalytic action when forming  
said amorphous plated layer.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): A whetstone which comprises a pedestal and plural whetstone  
pellets fixed on said pedestal,

wherein said whetstone pellet comprising:

a columnar base body; and

an amorphous plated layer containing abrasive grains, formed on at least an end surface of said base bodies,  
wherein said base body is made of a metal having catalytic action when forming said amorphous plated layer.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): A process for producing a whetstone pellet, comprising the steps of:

fixing plural base bodies on a fixing plate;  
forming an abrasive grain layer on each end surface of said base bodies by immersing said fixing plate fixing plural base bodies in a plating solution containing abrasive grains; and  
detaching said base bodies, on which abrasive grain layer is formed, from said fixing plate.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): A process for producing a whetstone pellet according to claim 12, wherein said plating solution is an electroless plating solution, and further comprising steps a step of:

forming a catalyst layer which precipitation of the plating layer from said electroless plating solution promotes, on at least opposite surface to the end surface of said base body to be fixed to said fixing plate, at least before said step of forming a catalyst layer.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): A process for producing ~~an optical element~~ a whetstone according to claim 13, wherein said step of fixing plural base bodies on said fixing plate comprise the steps of:

masking a surface of said fixing plate with a masking agent, before said step of forming an abrasive layer; and

fixing said base bodies on said surface of the fixing plate masked with the masking agent and masking each surface of said base bodies, on which said abrasive grain layers are not formed.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): A process for producing an optical element comprising the steps of:

producing a whetstone;

preparing raw material of an optical element;

grinding said raw material of an optical element by said whetstone; and

polishing said raw material of an optical element grinded, wherein said step of producing a whetstone comprise the steps of:

preparing a pedestal and plural columnar base bodies to be fixed on said pedestal;

fixing said plural base bodies on the said pedestal; and

forming an abrasive gain layer with a plating solution containing abrasive grains on at least each end surface of said base bodies.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): A process for producing an optical element according to claim 15, wherein said raw material of an optical element is fluorite or quartz.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): A process for producing an exposure apparatus equipped with an optical element having optical surface formed by a predetermined shape, comprising the steps of:

- producing a whetstone;
- preparing raw material of a lens element;
- grinding said raw material by said whetstone;
- polishing said raw material grinded; and
- installing said lens element obtained by polishing,

wherein said step producing a whetstone, comprising the steps of:

- preparing a pedestal and plural columnar base bodies to be fixed on said pedestal;
- fixing said plural base bodies on said pedestal; and
- forming an abrasive grain layer with a plating solution containing abrasive grains on at least each end surface of said base bodies.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): A process for producing a an exposure apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said raw material is fluorite or quartz.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): A process for producing an exposure apparatus according to  
claim 17, wherein,  
said raw material of a lens is fluorite.